

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 000565

NODIS

FOR ASST SEC SCHAUFLE

FOL REPEAT OF KINSHASA 0003 TO SECSTATE JAN 01

QTE:

S E C R E T KINSHASA 0003

NODIS

DEPT PASS ABIDJAN FOR ASST SEC SCHAUFLE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR AO US CG

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: PRE-OAU CONSULTATIONS WITH MOBUTU

REF: (A) LIBREVILLE 2152: (B) YAOUNDE 4314

1. I CALLED ON PRESIDENT MOBUTU EVNING DEC 31 AS
FOLLOW-UP TO ASST SEC SCHAUFLE'S PROMISE TO KEEP MOBUTU
INFORMED OF OUR CURRENT CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER AFRICAN
LEADERS. MOBUTU, WHO WAS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE THE FOLLOWING
MORNING FOR BANGUI WHERE HE WOULD BE SEEING AMIN AS WELL
AS BOKASSA, SAID HE HAD FOUND SCHAUFLE'S VISIT USEFUL AND
APPRECIATED OUR KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH ON THE DIPLOMATIC
FRONTS.

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2. I BRIEFED MOBUTU IN GNERAL TERMS ON POSITIVE RESULTS OF SCHUFELE'S TALKS WITH BONGO AND AHIDJO, AS WELL AS REPORTS FROM NUMBER OF OTHER POSTS (E.G., RABAT, KIGALI, BANGUI) ALL OF WHICH INDICATED CONTINUED RESOLVE TO WITHHOLD RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA. I NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT SOME GOVERNMENTS HAD EXPRESSED ANXIETY REGARDING ADDITIONAL MPLA RECOGNITIONS BEFORE THE OAU MEETING, AND IT WAS THEREFORE IMPORTANT THAT WE CONTINUE VIGOROUS, COORDINATED EFFORTS TO HOLD THE LINE. I ALLUEDED SPECIFICALLY TO INFORMATION WE HAD THAT ETHIOPIA MIGHT BE WEAKENING. MOBUTU SAID HE HAD JUST RECEIVED SAME INFORMATION AND WAS TAKING STEPS TO SHORE UP ADDIS' POSITION. I ALSO SAID WE HAD INDICATIONS THAT SOME LEADERS OF AFRICAN STATES SHARING OUR POSITION MIGHT DECIDE NOT TO PERSONALLY ATTEND THE OAU SUMMIT, AND EXPRESSED OUR VIEW THAT THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE REPRESENTATION FROM THOSE STATES WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO THE SUCCESS OF ANY OAU EFFORT. MOBUTU AGREED. HE SAID HE CERTAINLY INTENDED TO BE THERE AND WOULD ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO GO TOO.

3. MOBUTU WENT ON TO SAY THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT THE SOVIETS AND THEIR FRIENDS WERE BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT ZAIRE'S ADAMANT POSITION ON ANGOLA AND HOW THIS MIGHT AFFECT THE OAU'S DELIBERATIONS. IN ADDIS THE SOVIETS HAD RECENTLY APPROACHED A ZAIRIAN ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAU, KAMANDA, WITH A VIEW TO "EXPLORING" ZAIRE'S POSITION. KAMANDA HAD APPARENTLY TAKEN A FIRM LINE DURING THE CONTACT. MOREOVER, KAMANDA HAD LEARNED OF A SCHEME BEING PROMOTED BY TANZANIAN PRESIDENT NYERERE TO HAVE NETO SHOW UP EARLY IN ADDIS AND BE PROCLAIMED BY MPLA BACKERS AS PRESIDENT OF ALL ANGOLA BEFORE THE OAU MEETING GOT OFF THE GROUND. KAMANDA, WHO HAD RETURNED SECRETLY TO KINSHASA TO REPORT ALL THIS, WILL SHORTLY BE SENT BACK WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO EXPOSE AND COUNTER SOVIET/MPLA MANEUVERS.

4. MOBUTU SHOWED EVEN MORE INTEREST IN AN APPROACH BY THE CUBANS. HE SAID CASTRO HAD JUST SENT A PERSONAL EMISSARY TO BRAZZAVILLE FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF MAKING DIRECT CONTACT WITH ZAIRE TO DISCUSS ANGOLA. MOBUTU SAID
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THAT, WHILE HE HAD NO IDEA OF WHAT THE CUBANS WOULD COME UP WITH, HE SAW NO REASON NOT TO TALK WITH THEM AND WAS THEREFORE SENDING HIS OWN REPRESENTATIVE ACROSS THE RIVER ON JANUARY 1. I AGREED SUCH A CONTACT COULD POSSIBLY PROVE USEFUL, IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN ASSESSING THE OTHER SIDE'S POSITION.

4. AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE SOVIETS' ANXIETY, MOBUTU

CITED THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY WERE USING MONEY AND
RPMISES OF AID IN TRYING TO BUY MPLA RECOGNITION FROM OTHER
AFRICAN STATES. BURUNDI, HE NOTED, WAS AN EXAMPLE. WHEN
I MENTIONED AMIN'S RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS TENDING TO CONDONE
SOVIET/CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA AS NECESSARY TO CHASE THE
SOUTH AFRICANS OUT, MOBUTU DISMISSED THIS AS A MEANINGLESS
EFFORT BY AMIN TO WRING CONCESSIONS ON MILITARY AND
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE USSR. ALREADY, MOBUTU
ASSERTED, AMIN HAD REVERTED TO A MORE EVEN-HANDED LINE IN
HIS MOST RECENT STATEMENTS IN BANGU. MOBUTU INDICATED HE
ANTICIPATED NO TROUBLE IN KEEPING AMIN IN LINE WHEN
THE TWO OF THEM AND BOKASSA GET TOGETHER IN BANGUI
THIS WEEK.

5. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY AS TO WHAT HE THOUGHT MIGHT
BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THE OAU, MOBUTU MADE CLEAR HE DOES
NOT HAVE HIGH HOPES OF THE OAU'S COMING UP WITH AN
AGREED FORMULA FOR AN OVER-ALL POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.
RATHER, HE SEEMS TO VIEW THE MEETING AS USEFUL TO KEEP THE
MPLA IN ITS PLACE AS JUST ONE OF THREE MOVEMENTS WHICH
HAS TRIED AND FAILED TO WIN OAU ENDORESEMENT AS ANGOLA'S
SOLE GOVERNMENT. MOBUTU REMAINS CONFIDENT THIS CAN BE
ACHIEVED, AND IN THIS RESPECT HE SHOWED CONSIDERABLE
INTEREST IN A PROPOSAL HE HAD RECEIVED FROM PRESIDENT
SENGHOR THAT ALL NON-MPLA SUPPORTERS CAUCUS IN ADDIS ON
THE EVE OF THE SUMMIT MEETING. MOBUTU SAID HE WAS
UNCERTAIN JUST WHAT SENHOR HAD IN MIND (HE WAS OBVIOUSLY
FISHING TO SEE WHAT I KNEW) BUT ADDED HE SUPPORTED THE
IDEA. IN RESPONSE TO MY OBSERVATION THAT CERTAIN OTHER
AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS HAD MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF
TAKING ANGOLA TO THE UN IN THE EVENT THE OAU FAILED,
MOBUTU SAID HE CONTINUED TO VIEW ANGOLA AS ESSENTIALLY AN
AFRICAN PROBLEM BUT WOULD BE NO MEANS RULE OUT THE UN
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AS A POSSIBLE OPTION.

6. IN CLOSING, MOBUTU REMARKED IT HAD BEEN A TOUGH YEAR.
FOLLOWING THIS BANGUI VISIT HE WAS THEREFORE GOING TO REST
FOR A WEEK OR SO AT HIS COUNTRY RESIDENCE AND SECLUDE
HIMSELF FROM AFFAIRS OF STATE. HE ADDED, HOWEVER,
THAT ANGOLA WAS AN EXCEPTION AND WE COULD REACH HIM ON
THAT SUBJECT "ANYTIME, DAY OR NIGHT."
CUTLER UNQTE ROBINSON

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